

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888
Wednesday, 30 September, 2009

Statement by H.E Mr. Apakan, Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

I would first like to thank the United States delegation and in particular you, Madam, for your personal involvement and leadership in advancing the cause of women around the world and for your most commendable efforts in mobilizing the Council around the adoption of this important resolution today. I also wish to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his commitment to combating violence against women and re-energizing the entire United Nations system in that direction.

Today, with the adoption of resolution 1888 (2009), the Council has sent yet another strong message to the world at large that violence against women and children, particularly in situations of armed conflict, is not acceptable and that such acts will never be tolerated. Your presence here today, Madam, amplifies this message and further solidifies our resolve. Indeed, the women and children who continue to be subjected to the cruelest forms of violence during armed conflict shall hopefully see that they are not alone in their plight and that the international community will spare no effort to stop their suffering.

This is why Turkey has supported this resolution from the very beginning and actively contributed to its negotiation, bearing in mind the Council's primary responsibility for the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict, in particular women and children.

The resolution we have adopted today has many important aspects, but maybe its most significant added value derives from its action-oriented nature. Indeed, in the resolution we not only condemn those who perpetrate acts of violence against women, but also call for action against them. With the establishment of a new mechanism and the decision to appoint a special representative in particular, the United Nations and the international community have demonstrated their firm commitment and political will to effectively preventing sexual violence against women, combating impunity and enforcing accountability and the rule of law.

Turkey is fully committed to exerting every effort in order to ensure the effective implementation of the resolution. Together with resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), resolution 1888 (2009) provides us with a comprehensive framework for empowering women, and we will do our utmost to make the best use of this opportunity.